

HO - 830  
The (Elmer C. and Mary C.) Chesgreen Property  
6100 Washington Boulevard  
Elkridge, vicinity

Located along the western side of Washington Boulevard (also known as: US Rte I, Washington Road.) , the earlier residential structure, of unconfirmed date has been expanded extensively through the years and especially during the late twentieth century, probably circa 1970. The commercial structure is one story and cruciform in plan. Primarily of frame construction, there is a cut stone veneer along the bottom quarter of the building, on the front sections of the building. The upper portions of the wall are a stucco finish with regularly spaced vertical wooden members (approximately 1"X 2" members). The roof is a slightly sloped, built-up roof, with a faux mansard on two of the four cross members of the building.

While there is evidence that the Chesgreen property is historically associated with events making contributions to the broad patterns of our history, that affiliation is limited. It is apparent the historic character and uses of the building relate directly to the re-routing of US Route 1 away from the Main Street of Elkridge in the 1930's. While greatly modified, the resource exemplifies the roadside culture that prevailed along this important roadway from the 1930's to the later portions of the twentieth century.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO - 830

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located along the western side of Washington Boulevard (also known as: US Rte 1, Washington Road), on the bluff of the hill, the earlier residential structure, of unconfirmed date has been expanded extensively through the years and especially during the late twentieth century, probably circa 1970. The commercial structure is one story and cruciform in plan. Primarily of frame construction, there is a cut stone veneer along the bottom quarter of the building, on the front sections of the building. The upper portions of the wall are a stucco finish with regularly spaced vertical wooden members (approximately 1"X 2" members). The roof is a slightly sloped, built-up roof, with a faux mansard on two of the four cross members of the building.

### COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION

The original front façade, appears to have been oriented to the **south** of the building. What may have been a front porch area has been enclosed. Current finishes include the stone veneer on the lower portions of the wall, and the stucco panels with vertical wooden members along the upper portions. The non-historic door is slightly off center (toward the east) and flanked by two horizontally oriented, fixed pane windows (aluminum frames). This segment of the building may have been reworked circa 1950's, due to the proportions and arrangements of openings. The flat shed roof is covered with a rolled roofing material and adjoins what may remain of a shallow gable roof form oriented perpendicular to Washington Boulevard. There is a small block chimney that extends a few feet above what appears to be the gable roof section. The gable roof seems to have covered an earlier residential structure at the core of the current Tavern, possibly a simple bungalow form.

The eastern most portion of this south façade is composed of different construction features, likely dating from the 1970's. The stone veneer maintains the same elevation around the lower level of the exterior walls, seemingly lower in appearance to accommodate the sloping site. Fenestration is a single, three-part fixed pane, aluminum frame window that is vertically oriented (unlike fenestration on the other facades.) The upper portions of the walls along side this window consist of one stucco-like panel, spaced with vertical wooden members on both sides, one serving as a corner-board for this east addition. The roof form above this portion of the building appears to be flat with a faux mansard overhang (wood shingles).

The **east elevation** is composed of three parts:

The southern most portion of the east elevation is similar to the south façade described above, regarding materials and exterior treatments. There is another horizontal window along this wall, giving the feeling of a 1950's café space. The side of the gently sloping roof of the earlier residential structure is visible from this vantage.

The central portion of the east façade is designed to serve as a second entrance to the restaurant, with a single leaf, hollow metal door centrally located. To the south of this door is a window that appears to be a fixed pane, aluminum frame window. The wall area to the right or north of the entrance, has similar stucco panels. There are two wood frame with glass enclosures serving as menu boards and advertising spaces. These case pieces are fastened to hang below and in front of the stone veneer construction. There is a small stucco panel that connects with the corner-board at the north corner. The roof above this portion is also faux mansard with wood shingles.

The third portion (northern most) of the east façade has no fenestration. The stone veneer continues along the length and five stucco panels are located above the veneer cap stone or sill level. The roof above this portion is also faux mansard with wood shingles. On both of these wings, the upper portions of the walls consist of the stucco-like panels, regularly spaced with vertical wooden members marching on all sides of the building.

The **north elevation** is composed of three parts:

Eastern most portion of the north façade was built as part of the circa 1970's east addition. It is composed of the stone veneer foundation, stucco panels with wood trim above the dado level, and an overhanging faux mansard style roof. There are no windows. Parking signage has been added to the center of some of these panels.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO - 830

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates**

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** circa 1890's for earlier residence, and circa 1970 for major additions

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

While there may be possible evidence that the Chesgreen property is historically associated with events making contributions to the broad patterns of our history, that affiliation is limited. It is apparent the historic character and uses of the building do relate directly to the re-routing of US Route 1 away from the Main Street of Elkridge in the 1930's. While greatly modified, the resource exemplifies the roadside culture that prevailed along this important roadway from the 1930's to the later portions of the twentieth century. The structure, as it stands, does not embody distinctive characteristics that would lend significance for architectural merit. The many alterations that have occurred at the building further limits the opportunity to express a strong significance statement.

### NARRATIVE HISTORY

The Chesgreen property, today known as "Buttermilk Hill Tavern", is historically "associated with events making contributions to the broad patterns of our history" (Criterion A) by virtue of its association with the development and use of US 1 (also known as: Washington Blvd., the Washington Road and following the Baltimore Washington Turnpike.) Historically the route between Baltimore and Washington dates back two centuries. The road that would become the Baltimore Washington Turnpike predated the "Residence Bill" of July 16, 1790, that established the national capital, "The Territory of Columbia."

Originally constructed under the 1704 Act requiring 24 foot cart paths, the first section of the road was constructed in 1741 connecting Baltimore and Elkridge. By 1749 the road continued to Georgetown and the banks of what is now referred to as the Potomac River. According to many period accounts, maintenance was always a concern. During the turnpike movement of the late-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, several different turnpike companies tried to construct a successful turnpike. Only one company succeeded in 1820. Their success was short lived, as the State of Maryland condemned the road in 1865.

In 1906 the State responded to the public's request for rebuilding the roadway and State Route 1 was officially born. The military used the road heavily during WWI and in 1918 and 1919 the road was laid in concrete and expanded by twenty feet in width. In 1925, State Route I became part of US 1, the so-called "Main Street" of the East Coast, from Fort Kent, Maine to Key West, Florida.

The development of US 1, as well as many other roadways during the early twentieth century, occurred in response to the culture's acceptance and increased use of the automobile. Few inventions have had as great and as widespread an impact as the automobile.

The National Park Service (NPS) reports:

"By 1920, more than 300 cities had roadside camping facilities for motorists and more than one million people used them. Streets and highways were quickly built or modernized and a uniform numbering system for highways was introduced in 1925. In 1930 nearly 27 million cars were registered. The production, sale, repair, and servicing of cars provided work for millions."

With the Great Depression the tourist industry and related businesses were nearly cut in half between 1929 and 1932. The businesses that were successful during these difficult times were often ones that appealed to the smaller number of tourists on the road and

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO - 830

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City.

State Department of Assessments and Taxation Records, State of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

P.A.C Spero & Company and Louis Berger & Associates. "Historic Highway Bridges in Maryland: 1631- 1960: Historic Context Report," MD State Highway Administration, MD State Department of Transportation, Baltimore, MD, 1995.

A History of Road Building in Maryland. State Roads Commission of MD, Baltimore, MD, 1958.

G.M. Hopkins, C.E. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore including Howard County, Maryland. Philadelphia: 320 Walnut Street, 1878.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.73 Acres

Acreage of historical setting 4.51 Acres

Quadrangle name Relay Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Map 38, Grid 3, Parcel 861

See attached map with parcel identified.

Also see legal metes and bounds description in attached Deed: Liber 0341/ Folio 0237, dating to June 2, 1994.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kate Mahood, Architectural Historian		
organization	Mahood and Associates, LLC	date	January 15, 2004
street & number	510 Pafel Road	telephone	410-266-5608
city or town	Annapolis	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO - 830

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The second portion of this north façade is a central, projecting addition also probably constructed in the 1970's, currently serving as the restaurant's kitchen space. There is a centrally located, single leaf, hollow metal door. Two wall portions with similar stucco panels and a stone base flank the door. There are no windows on this portion of the building.

Finally, to the western most end of this façade is a still more recent one-story addition that connects with a semi-permanent tent structure. Dumpsters are located in the corner area that exists between the two additions.

The rear wing of the building, **west façade**, has been constructed in more recent times and consists of a frame platform, basic wooden deck railing on all sides, and a vinyl tent structure (with clear vinyl in areas to serve as windows) that offers protection as semi-permanent walls and ceiling. The tent form extends the full length of the rear elevation and offers views to the woods and sloping hillside beyond. The roof of the tent is sloped from high to low, east to west, with the high point beginning approximately 5 feet higher than the peak of the original building's low gable form (as seen along the east elevation. ). The rear elevation, other than this tent like structure, was not able to be inspected. The fenestration patterns along this façade are also unclear due to interior modifications and the lack of accessibility to that portion of the restaurant.

Signage for the "Buttermilk Hill Tavern" is in several locations around the building, the most prominent being a plastic sign that extends above the mansard-like roof at the eastern most segment of the building. The site is mostly paved for parking with gravel and dirt surfaces. There are three curb cuts to provide access to the property from Washington Boulevard.

The interior has been remodeled many times over the years. There is a change in floor level upon entering the primary entrance (on the south façade). The interior finishes range from some 1950's decorative novelties, to otherwise a dominantly circa 1970's interior with heavy bar with stools and four square tables with captain's chairs. There are a few booths that may predate the 1970s's work.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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maintained a smaller scale operation. As economic times improved later in the 1930's and onward, roadside advertising became commonplace. Fanciful buildings, grand colorful signs (often humorous in language), and huge, over-sized sculptures of trademark characters and animals offered highly visible attractions for the passing motorist. All aimed to incline the traveler to stop, pass some time, and of course spend some money. These distinctive architectural and landscape features created a roadside or highway culture that, in part, gives context for understanding the history of many commercial and residential properties along Route US 1, including its run through Howard County.

The original building on the Chesgreen site was constructed as a residential structure, probably near the end of the nineteenth century, by Augustus Mack and Annie Mack (his wife); or by James H. Mars and Sarah Ann Mars (his wife). The Mars couple purchased the home from the Macks on December 5 1887 (liber 53/folio 30). Deed research indicates the property was inherited by Sallie Mars, the Mars's daughter. On September 3, 1913, by order of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Mr. Daniel M. Murray was appointed Trustee for the property, "... with authority to sell the real estate in the proceedings in said cause mentioned..."). It is unclear what this legal matter was about, but it lists Sallie Mars as "Complainant"(sic) and "Matilda Kiar and others," as "defendants." In 1917 (February 21<sup>st</sup>) most of the property was conveyed by Daniel M. Murray to Rebecca Keys (liber / folio 491.) And on October 2, 1930, Mr. Murray conveyed another segment of the property (approximately 2.78 acres) to the State of Maryland, State Highway Administration for the realignment of US Rte. 1 around Elkridge's "Main Street."

The building's development and conversion from primarily residence to tavern likely occurred in response to the increased traffic that followed the 1930 changes to the alignment of US Route I. We know that Elmer C. Chesgreen and Mary C. Chesgreen (his wife) owned the property in the 1970's and likely earlier. There is a break in the Chain of Title that references ownership by "Fulton Realty" and references a deed in Anne Arundel County that does not correspond to the property in anyway. So there is much that is unknown about the history of the building's ownership from circa 1920 and through the middle of the twentieth century.

An interview with the hostess on duty at the Buttermilk Hill Tavern, on January 8, 2004 (Ms. Sandy Stonebeck), indicates the Chesgreen's were instrumental in developing the tavern as the commercial establishment it has become. We know it was Mrs. Chesgreen that named the tavern "Buttermilk Hill Tavern." According to Ms. Stonebeck, Mr. Chesgreen was working near a flagpole at the front of the property when he was accidentally electrocuted. Just weeks before he and his wife had discussed the idea of adopting the name of Buttermilk Hill, based on lore of the neighborhood and the steep hillside. After his death Mrs. Chesgreen proceeded in making the change.

Research in state records and other sources has not revealed the earlier name(s) of the tavern or other information about the history of the building during the mid-twentieth century.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. HO - 830

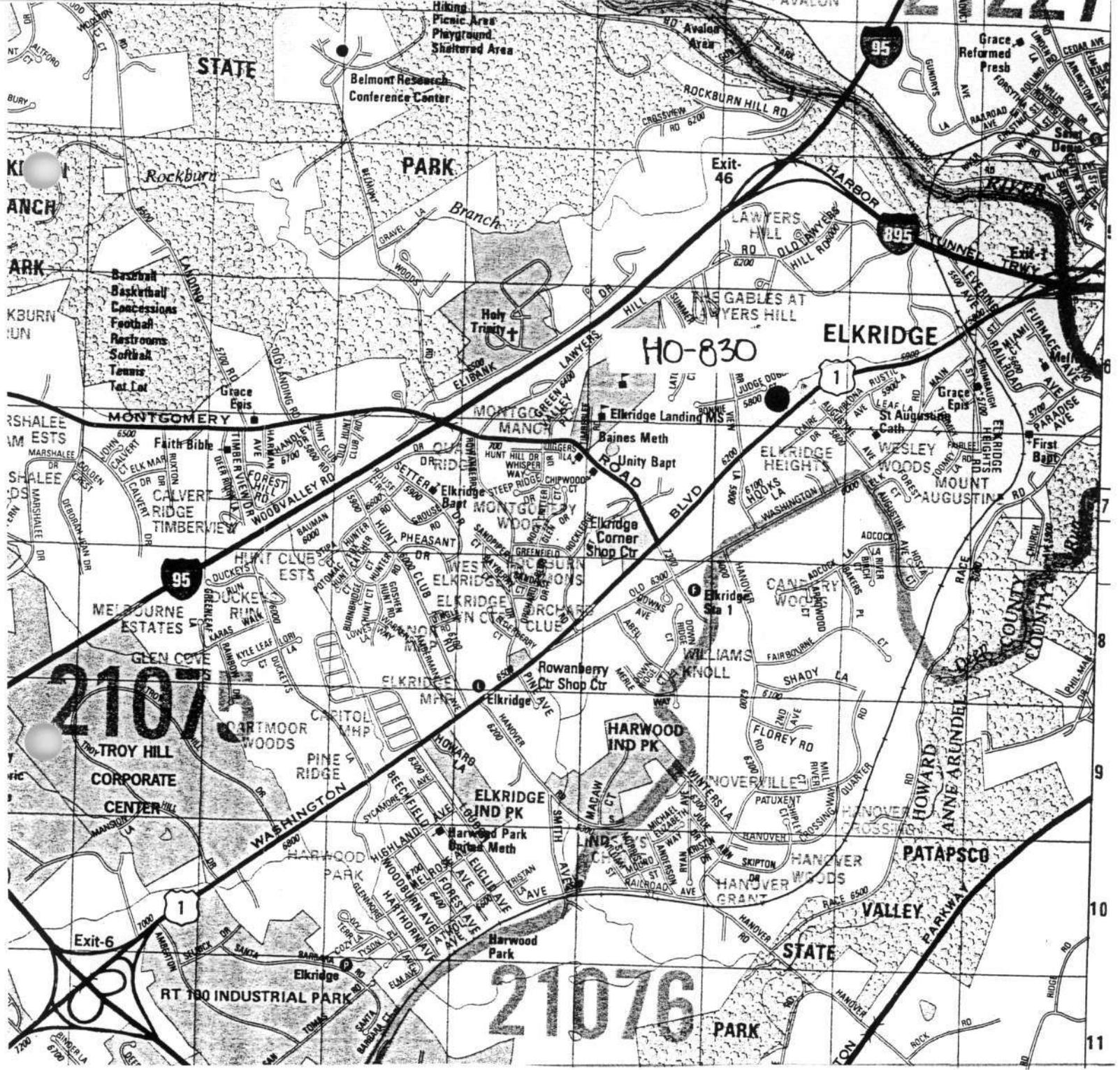
Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Stein, Charles Francis, Jr. Origin and History of Howard County Maryland. Baltimore: The Howard County Historical Society, 1972.  
Martinette Map of 1860.





HOWARD COUNTY - ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR PILG GRANT

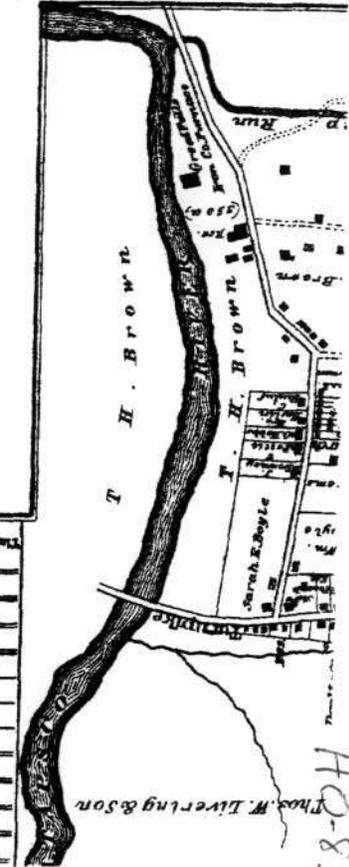
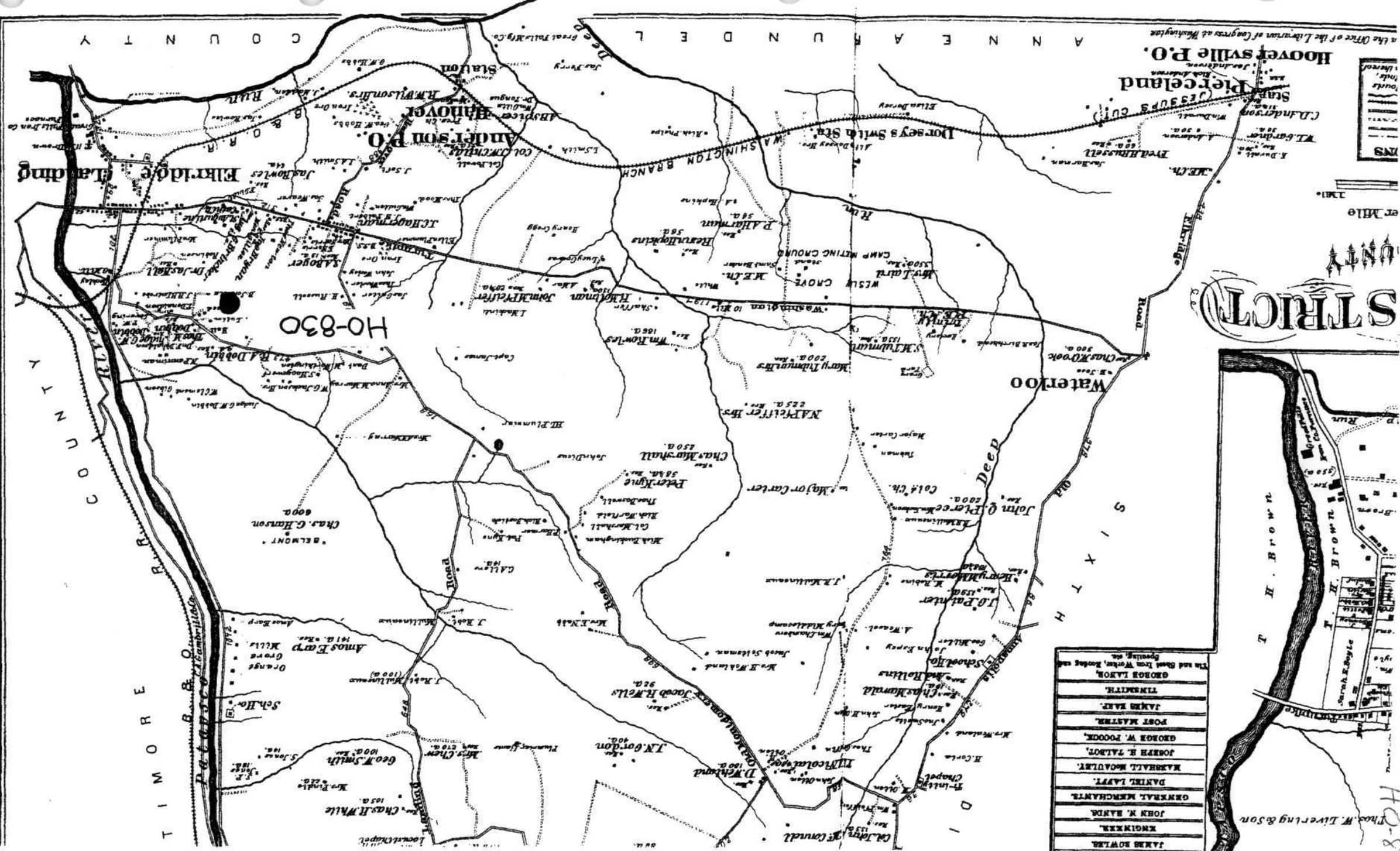
JANUARY 2004

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6100 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, ELKRIDGE, MD  
 PROPERTY INVENTORY NUMBER: HO - 830

ADC'S HOWARD COUNTY STREET MAP BOOK

SCALE: 1" = 2,000 FT.





JAMES HOWLES
ENGINEER
JOHN M. HARRIS
GENERAL MERCHANT
DANIEL LARRY
MARSHALL MOUNTAIN
JOSEPH H. TALBOT
GEORGE W. POOCH
PORT MASTER
JAMES HART
TIMMERTH
GEORGE LARON
The land about Iron Works, Rooping and Dreping, etc.

at the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

Hooverville P.O.

Star Pierceland

C. Anderson

W. Anderson

HO-830

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Thos. W. Livering & Son

C O U N T Y

A N N E A R U N D E L

T I M O R E

S I T H

STRICKT

UNITED

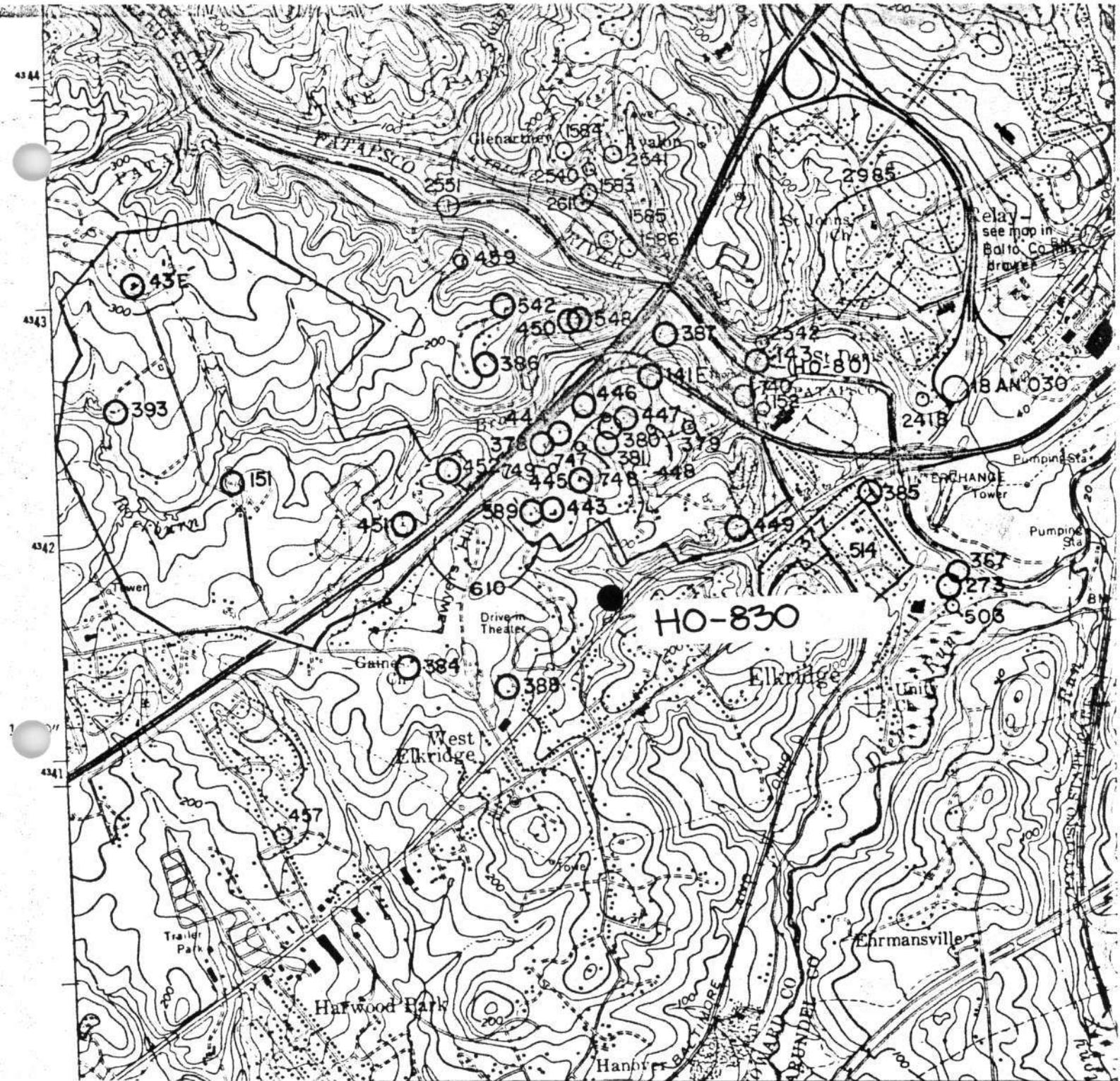
PER MILE

1281

NS

Legend symbols for 'NS', 'Mile', and 'County'

HOPKIN'S MAP  
1878



HOWARD COUNTY - ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR PILG GRANT

JANUARY 2004

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6100 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, ELKRIDGE, MD  
 PROPERTY INVENTORY NUMBER: HO - 830

USGS - RELAY QUADRANGLE MAP

SCALE: 1:24,000



Buttermilk  
Hill Tavern

KARAOKE  
WED HURS



HO-830

THE CHESGREEN PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY

VIEW LOOKING WEST, FRONT FACADE

NEG. W/NO. SHPO

KATE MAHOO  
JAN, 2004

1 OF 3



HO-830

THE CHESSGREEN PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY

VIEW LOOKING NORTH, SIDE FACADE

NEG. W/ MD. SHPO

KATE MAHOOD

JAN. 2004

2 OF 3



HO-830

THE CHESSGREEN PROPERTY  
HOWARD COUNTY  
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST, SIDE FACADE

NBS. W/ MD. SHPO

KATE MAHOOD  
JAN, 2004

3 OF 3